Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 8th October, 1886.

Sir,

During the short moments of leisure in our intense activity of melting Silver, on a scale never before attempted, as I have reason to believe, it has appeared to me, upon reflection, that the most striking feature of our years operations is the enormous scale on which we have melted silver and gold, and converted them into coin.

I have gathered these few data on the subject together, and offer them for the Directors use, agreeably to his wish, if he can employ them in accordance therewith.

The Gold charged to me for the

year, closing June 30th 1886 was, 1.396.820 218/1000 oz. Troy weight, valued at $25,987,352.88 3/8. Transferred to the common avoirdupois pound it weighed about 95.785 lbs. or nearly 42 3/4 Common tons.

The Silver charged to me for the same period was 39,693,151 81/100 oz. Troy. valued at $46,188,394 82/100. Its weight in the common Commercial Avoirdupois pound, was 2,721,878 lbs. equal to 1215 Tons.

The amounts of Gold and Silver refined in the same period were 40,294 88/100 a.d.p. lbs. about 18 Tons.

The total amount of melting and refining expressed in a tabular form is;

Coinage of Gold, 95.785 lbs or 42 3/4 Tons.
" " Silver, 2.721.878 lbs or 1215. Tons.
Refining both 40.294 lbs or 18. Tons.
Total amount = 2.857.957 lbs or 1275 3/4 Tons.

When we reflect that the above weight of Gold and Silver is handled Sixteen times, while passing through the Melter & Refiners hands in the Mint, we have an aggregate of 20.400 Tons of Gold and Silver handled in the last years work in the Melting Department of the Mint alone, to make the value of $72,175,747.

Since the same amount of the Precious Metals is handled fully as often in the Coinage Department of the Mint, we are safe in concluding that the workmen of the Mint handle upwards of 40.000 tons of Gold and Silver to make the value of over $72,000,000.

Very Respectfully

Jas. C. Booth.

M & R.